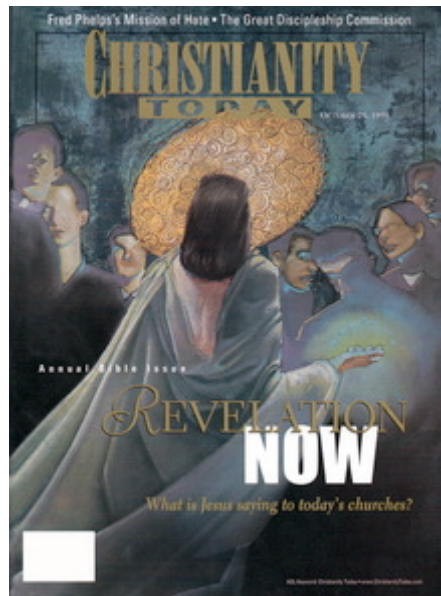


Evidence that *Christianity Today* is a Propaganda Tool for the Roman Catholic Church

by Jeremy James



October 1999

The cover asks:
'What is Jesus saying to today's churches?'

***Christianity Today* depicts Christ as
a transsexual or transvestite.**

This paper may shock many Christians, not because it makes sensational claims or uncovers some scandalous secrets, but simply because it pulls together a range of material already in the public sphere – material that is supposed to be strictly Biblical – and shows how it fits together to serve, not the goals of true Christianity, but those of the Roman Catholic Church.

We do not intend to deal comprehensively with the flawed theology of *Christianity Today* (CT). It would simply take too long. Instead we will confine our examination to some of the core themes and ideas that the magazine is using to redefine true Christianity and bring the various ‘Protestant’ denominations closer to Rome. In doing so we are not relying on speculative arguments or the opinions of other writers, but simply highlighting selected material across dozens of issues of the magazine, usually the front cover or its accompanying article, and asking, Is this something that a truly Christian magazine would publish?

Take the cover of CT shown above, where Christ is bizarrely depicted as a transsexual or a transvestite. It is difficult to see how such an ambivalent image could have been selected for publication *anywhere* in any Christian magazine. [We regret having to reproduce this and similar images in order to substantiate our claims.]

Hopefully, over the course of this paper, we will have provided readers with sufficient objective evidence to assess the integrity of CT and draw their own conclusions.

The use of disrespectful and blasphemous images of Christ

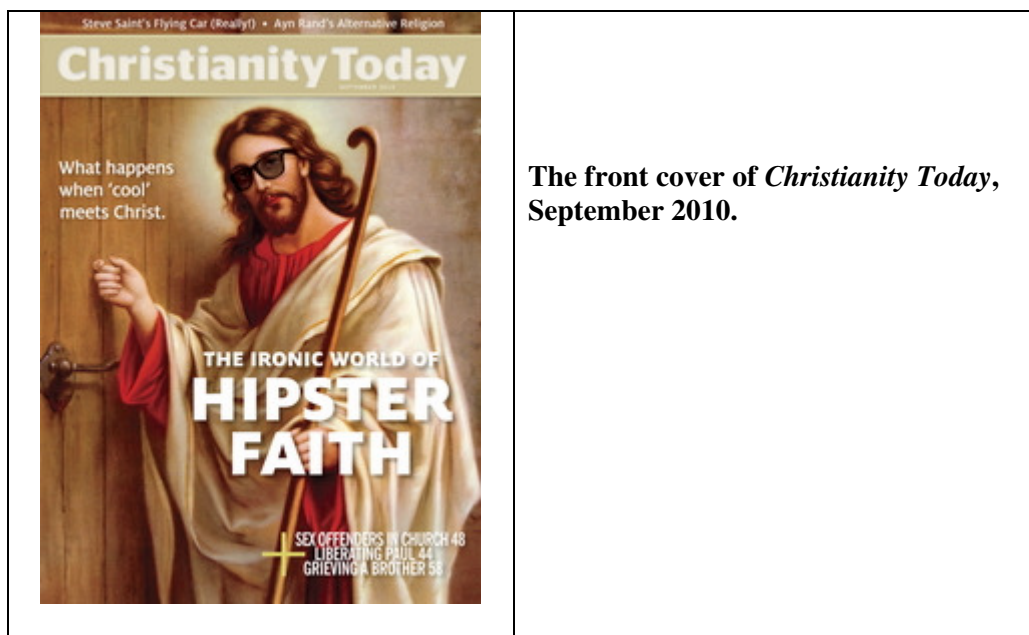
The second commandment forbids believers to depict God in any form. Of course, natural man has violated this commandment in countless ways, but the western ‘church’ which violates it the most, by far, is the Roman Catholic Church. Not only does CT adopt the Roman Catholic practice, but, as we have seen, it sometimes does so in a remarkably disrespectful way. Take the following example:



Not only is Christ being depicted yet again (contrary to Scripture), but he is set in a pose that is well known to students of the occult, called “the eye of Horus.” In such a pose honour is given to Lucifer by covering or obscuring the right eye and sometimes part of the face. Many rock stars like to be shown in this pose on album covers and promotional videos since it tacitly advertises their solidarity with the so-called Angel of Light. This occult practice can possibly be traced to the prophetic description of the Antichrist in Zechariah 11:17 which states that “...his right eye shall be utterly darkened.”

On the following page we see pop singer Nelly Furtado adopting the same pose (unwittingly?) on no fewer than *six* different album covers. In each instance her right eye is obscured. Many other pop stars have done the same, including Madonna, Lady Gaga, Britney Spears, Rihanna, and Christina Aguilera.

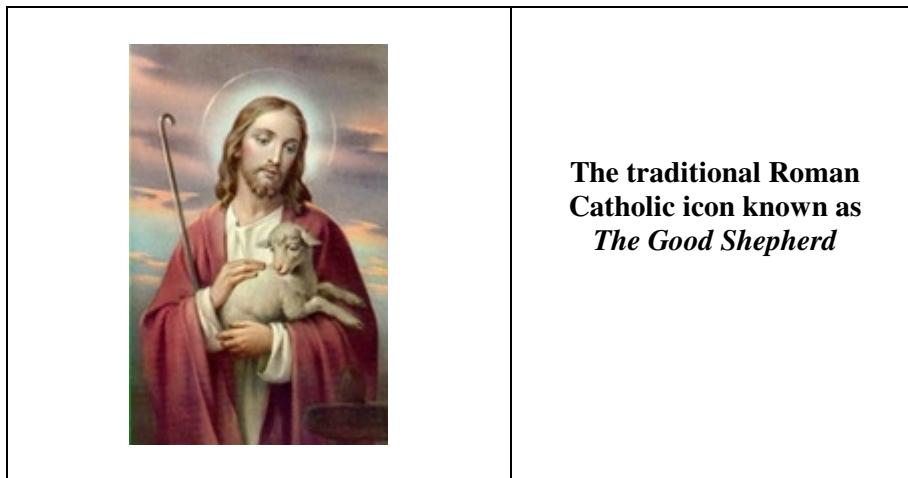
Were the readers of *CT* alarmed and offended by the blasphemous portrayal of Christ on the covers of October 1999 or April 2010? It would seem not because, just a few months after the publication of the latter, another offensive image of our Redeemer was put on the front cover:



The editors of *Christianity Today* clearly have no problem mocking and demeaning our Lord, in this instance by portraying him as a cool dude witnessing from door to door. It should be noted that the template for this image is the traditional Roman Catholic icon known as *The Good Shepherd*:



The Eye of Horus, an occult pose possibly based on the prophetic description of the Antichrist in Zechariah 11:17, which states that “...his right eye shall be utterly darkened.”



Several other issues of *Christianity Today* have had covers that demean Christ in some manner. Take, for example, the four shown on the next page. The first cover (A) cleverly suggests that Christ has legitimate rivals in the pantheon of gods but that he is still the best choice.

Readers familiar with the iconography of modern advertising and the use of occult images and symbols in company trademarks will know that the Starbucks logo (which B mimics) has a goddess as its centerpiece. So not only is Christ demeaned by placing his image on a coffee cup, but he is blasphemed by giving him the iconic status of a goddess.

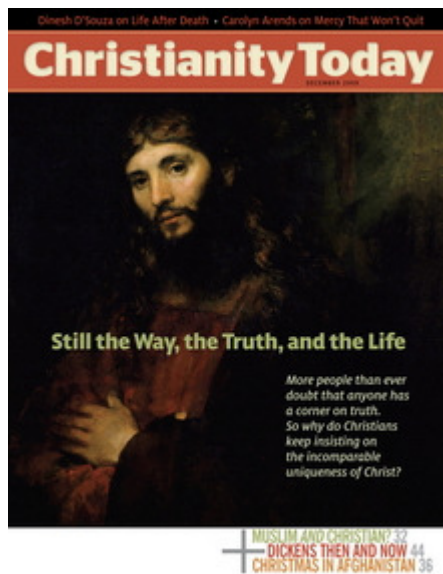
In the third image (C), we find *CT* giving credence to the subversive Muslim allegation that Christ was really a refugee of Palestinian origin who, as a child, was forced to flee to Egypt (an Arab state) by the perfidious Jews. Incredibly, this issue was published only weeks after 9/11.

The fourth (D) is styled after another traditional Roman Catholic image, that of Christ nailed to the cross. True believers regard crucifix-type images as highly disrespectful, even blasphemous, since they suggest – as Roman Catholic theology teaches – that Christ was not truly victorious on the cross but must be sacrificed again and again in the Catholic ‘sacrifice of the Mass.’

Cultural Relativism

The true Jesus of the Bible can also be distorted by portraying him in an alien context, for example by mixing disparate cultural and religious elements in the same image in order to disorient or misdirect the reader. This technique is often used to imply that, if Jesus were around today, he would preach a different message. The technical term for this is *cultural relativism*, the view that a religious teaching is constrained by historical circumstances and must be ‘updated’ to meet the changing needs of society.

A



December 2009

B



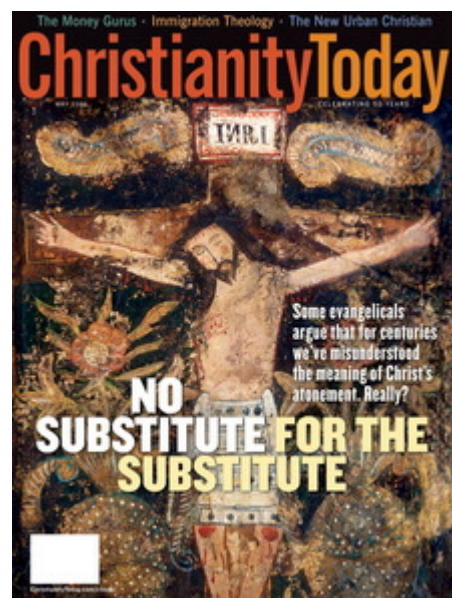
January 2009

C



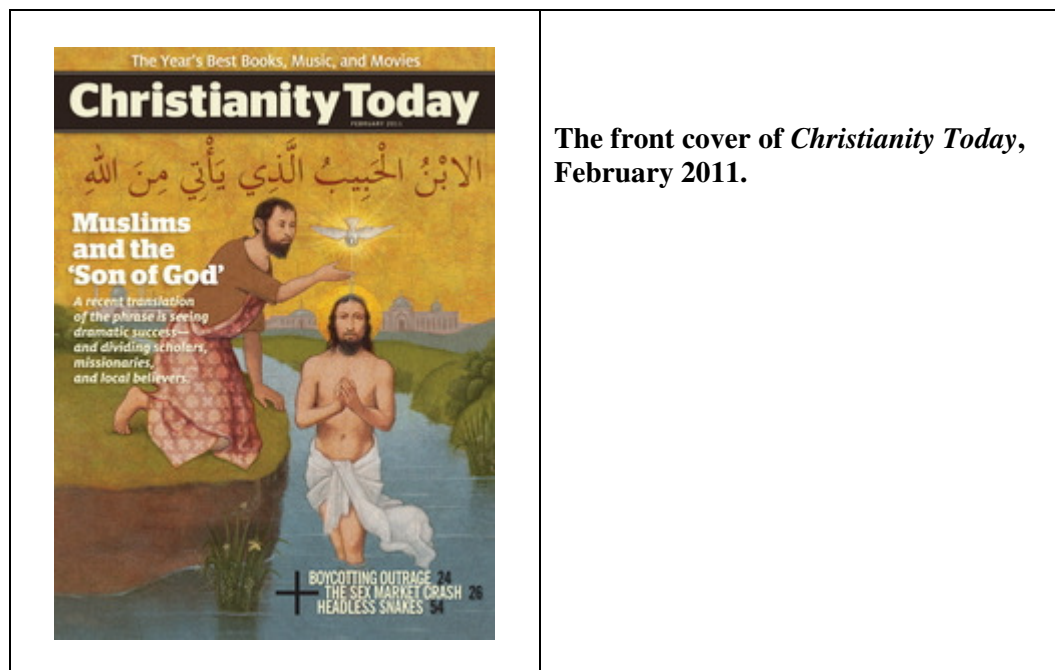
December 2001

D



May 2006

Take the following example:

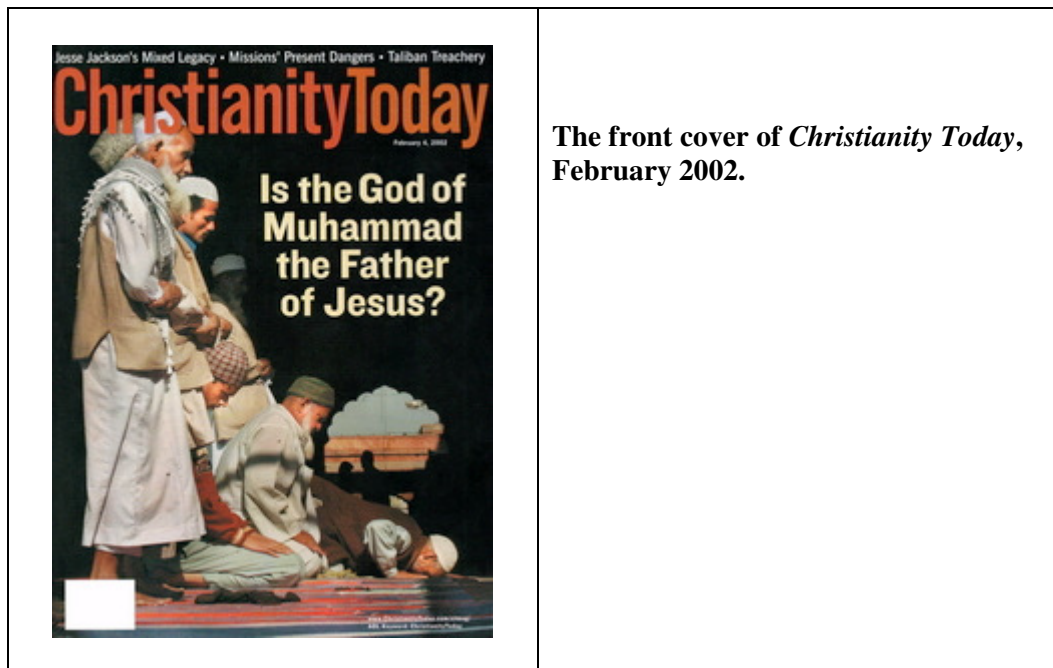


By juxtaposing a Koranic verse with a scene where Jesus is being baptized in a river which is plainly not the Jordan – note the buildings in the background – this unsettling cover plays games with the reader’s mind. Is the man on the bank John the Baptist or a Muslim? (His clothing and hair style are suspiciously Islamic, while John was a Nazirite with very long hair.) Does this mean that the Holy Spirit is working in the Koran, just as He is in the Bible? And why is Jesus being baptized in another river?

This image reeks of cultural relativism. Besides being disrespectful, it subtly implies that the Issa of the Koran is indeed the Jesus of the Bible and that terms like “Son of God” should not be interpreted too rigidly.

By placing an Islamic-type figure in this key prophetic role, where the Saviour is receiving the Holy Spirit in a special way, the image also suggests that Christianity and Islam have much more in common than we realize and that a truly broadminded Christian would see beyond the incidental differences to the common truth that unites them.

Another issue of *CT* gave unnecessary prominence to a cynical, doubt-laden question, *Is the God of Muhammad the Father of Jesus?* It then went on to deal with the question in a very ambivalent manner.



The feature article tried to find common ground between the *Shema* of Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” – and the first part of the *Shahada* of Islam – “There is no God but Allah.” The author then went on to state that “This is what Christianity teaches: God Almighty, the one and only Allah (*Allah* is simply the Arabic word for “God”), took upon himself humanity.”

This, of course, is complete nonsense. Allah is not the Arabic name for God but rather the name of a specific tribal deity known as *Al-ilah*, the moon god. The Arabs do not worship, or even acknowledge, the God of Israel because they despise Israel. Furthermore, the Koran utterly denies the deity of Christ, the only begotten Son of God, which is conclusive proof – if proof were needed – that Allah, the author of the Koran, is not the God of the Bible but a supernatural entity in opposition to Him.

The author later offers the following, utterly unbiblical, conclusion:

Let's go back to our question: Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad? The answer is surely Yes and No. Yes, in the sense that the Father of Jesus is the only God there is. He is the Creator and Sovereign Lord of Muhammad, Buddha, Confucius, of every person who has ever lived. He is the one before whom all shall one day bow (Phil. 2:5-11). Christians and Muslims can together affirm many important truths about this great God – his oneness, eternity, power, majesty. As the Qur'an puts it, he is "the Living, the Everlasting, the All-High, the All-Glorious" (2:256). [*emphasis added*]

But the answer is also No, for Muslim theology rejects the divinity of Christ and the personhood of the Holy Spirit – both essential components of the Christian understanding of God. No devout Muslim can call the God of Muhammad "Father," for this, to their mind, would compromise divine transcendence. But no faithful Christian can refuse to confess, with joy and confidence, "I believe in God the Father...Almighty!" Apart from the Incarnation and the Trinity, it is possible to know *that* God is, but not *who* God is.

Please note his bizarre conclusion: "Let's go back to our question: Is the Father of Jesus the God of Muhammad? The answer is surely Yes and No." Yes and No? This is precisely the kind of ambivalence that denies the literal truth of the Bible and makes its interpretation subject to cultural and historical considerations.

The correct answer is an unequivocal and unqualified NO, but such a straightforward scriptural response would not fit the *CT* agenda.

Who else teaches that the God of the Koran is the God of the Bible? The Roman Catholic Church, of course! Here is what its official Catechism states (paragraph 841):

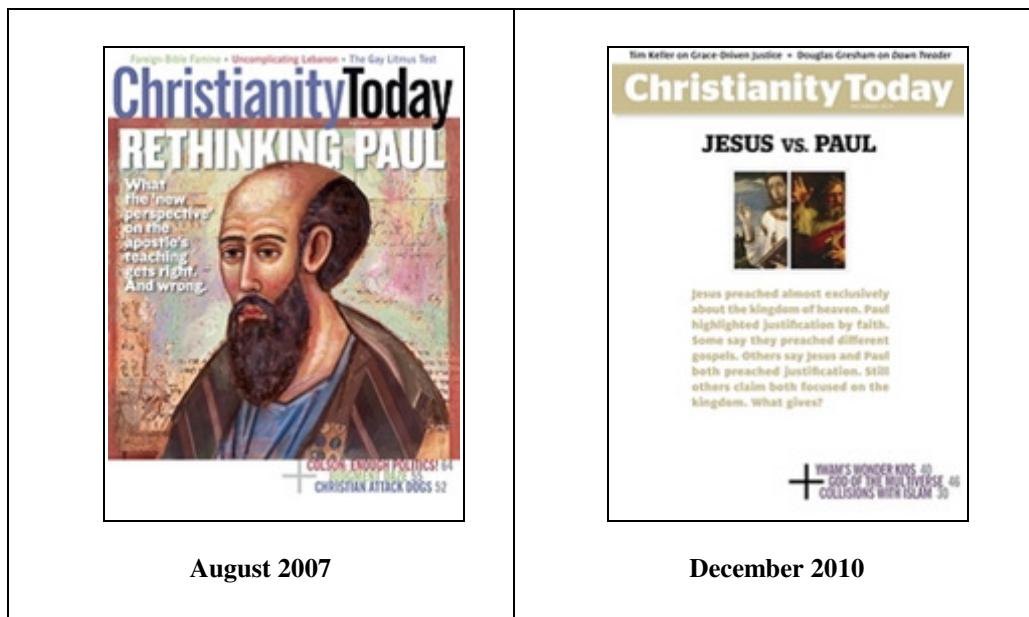
"The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."

The Bible makes it perfectly clear that to reject the Son is to reject the Father. There is absolutely no room for compromise on this central doctrine. Islam does not recognize the one, true living God. So when *Christianity Today* aligns itself with the false teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, it reveals the extent to which it has departed from Bible-based Christianity and embraced a wholly new, apostate variety.

As we proceed we will find that this 'new variety' is virtually the same as the ecumenical, we-are-all-one, gnostic concoction that Rome is now using to lure the 'separated brethren' into the clutches of the Papacy.

Christ versus Paul – another mode of attack

Another way to attack true Biblical Christianity is to claim that Christ did not found the church as we know it but that it was invented by Paul for his own purposes. Radical feminists in particular have used this cunning ploy to argue that, while Christ tried to raise the social standing of women, Paul reduced their status in his epistles. Born-again Christians know that the Bible is the Word of God in its totality, that everything Paul wrote was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that Jesus and Paul taught the same undivided truth. However, *CT* uses the feminist ploy, Jesus-versus-Paul, to sow seeds of doubt among its readers:



This attack does not focus on all of Paul’s writings but only on the doctrine of justification by faith, which happens to be the cornerstone of the Reformation. Several theologians, seemingly unconnected, are converging on this doctrine and trying to take it apart. They redefine what Paul meant by ‘works’ and thus modify what is meant by justification by faith alone, apart from works. This is a profoundly important doctrine in true Biblical Christianity, but it is rejected by Rome and anyone who holds to it is deemed by her to be worthy of the most severe punishment.

True Biblical Christianity is the only religious teaching which insists that salvation comes by faith alone, namely faith in the saving blood of Christ and his substitutionary atonement on the cross for each one of us. All other religions, including the Roman Catholic Church, base salvation on “works” or the personal efforts and achievements on earth by each individual. If a person fails to accumulate sufficient merit here on earth, then he must ‘pay off’ the rest of his sin debt by suffering for a time in ‘purgatory’ after death.

So an attack on Paul’s teaching about justification by faith is, in reality, a major assault on true Biblical Christianity. But why would a magazine that purports to be Evangelical give any credence whatever to the arguments put forward by these modern theologians? Why would *CT* give a platform to heresy, especially one of such a destructive kind? While its article went on to give a defence of the traditional doctrine, it was so poorly argued, and so deferential toward the position taken by the ‘new perspective’ theologians, that it must surely have left many readers confused. And if a magazine like *CT* cannot give a robust defence of a central doctrine of true Biblical Christianity, then we know something is seriously wrong.

This became more evident in a related article about Paul in *CT* in 2010 with the troubling title, *Jesus vs. Paul*. It too centers on justification by faith, as the author himself concedes – “In other words, will we center our gospel teaching and living on “the kingdom” or “justification by faith”?” He then proceeds to discuss the supposed distinction between the gospel taught by Christ and the gospel taught by Paul. He even says, “It is not exaggerating to say that evangelicalism is facing a crisis about the relationship of Jesus to Paul, and that many today are choosing sides.”

This supposed crisis is actually being generated by *Christianity Today* and the ‘new perspective’ theologians who are working hard to create problems where none exist and then, through specious argumentation and scholastic devices, ‘solving’ them in ways that undermine true Biblical Christianity.

***Christianity Today* is continually sowing seeds of doubt**

Christianity Today deliberately gives a high profile to a broad range of heretical ideas and then, by failing to deal with them in a forthright and scriptural manner, endows them with a dangerous measure of credibility. It is only necessary to repeat this process over time to lull readers into a deficient, even apostate, understanding of Christian doctrine.

Another recurring target is the literalness of Biblical truth, in particular the historical validity of those elements which most directly influence our understanding of the Bible as a whole. Chief among these are key episodes from Genesis and Exodus. So it should hardly be surprising if *CT* gives unwarranted weight to arguments that attack the literal truth of these books. Here are just a few examples that show how phony *CT* can be in its ‘defense’ of Biblical truth [*See covers overleaf*]:

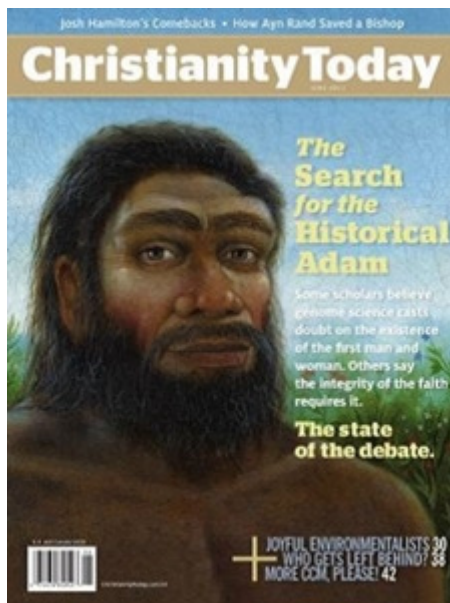
A: On the first cover, Adam is deliberately depicted as a cave-man, a kind of proto-human who later evolved into *homo sapiens*. This, of course, implies a complete rejection of the literal truth of Genesis.

B: The Garden-of-Eden theme is repeated on the next cover, where a partly consumed apple is associated with the words, “addicted to sex”. This is an obvious reference to the forbidden fruit that Adam and Eve ate in the garden (even though the Bible never specifies the variety of fruit in question). By linking the apple with sex in this way, the image is suggesting, as many Gnostic sects have long taught, that their sin was actually sexual in nature and that Eve may even have had sexual relations with the serpent. By depicting events in the garden in this way, *CT* is rejecting the strictly Biblical account in favour of one based on mythology and symbolism.

C: The third cover asks “Did the Exodus never happen?” This is all part of the baiting game that *CT* likes to play with its readers, where seeds of doubt are sown in their minds by questions that only a sceptic would ask. If the Exodus never happened, then a foundational event in the Bible is no more than a myth and the glory of Sinai a fable.

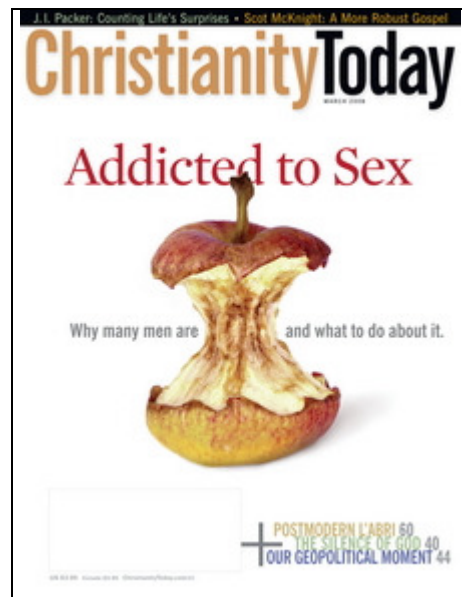
D: The last cover gives unnecessary weight to the insidious myth peddled by writers of science fiction, namely that the universe is inhabited by intelligent alien lifeforms and that by implication man is not unique and could not be made in the image and likeness of God.

A



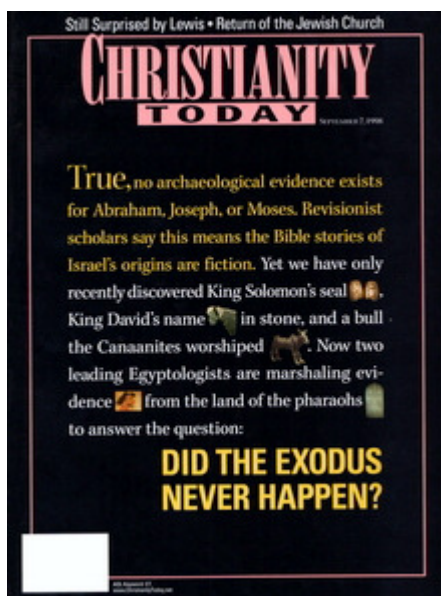
June 2011

B



March 2008

C



September 1998

D

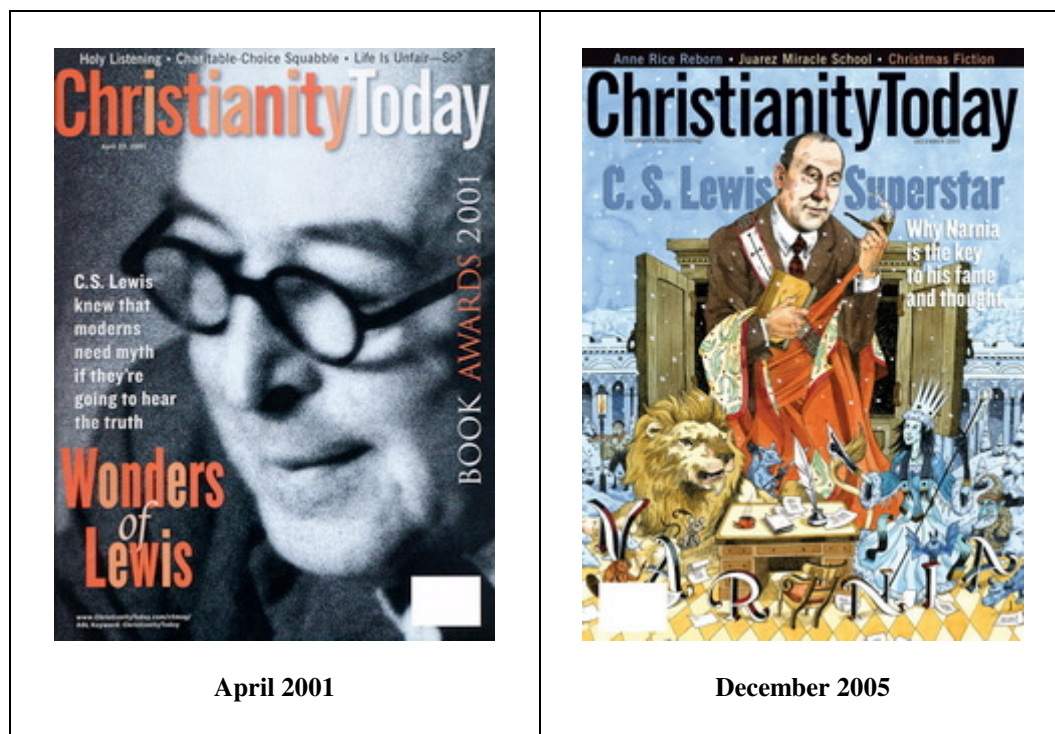


February 2009

It is not necessary for CT to endorse any of these heretical ideas in order to undermine confidence in true Biblical Christianity. A great deal of damage is done simply by giving them a weight and a credibility that they clearly do not deserve. Journalists and media moguls are very familiar with this trick, where a message is planted in the mind of the reader by affecting to uphold the opposite view.

The Paganized Christianity of C S Lewis

This technique is nowhere more evident than in its passionate espousal of C S Lewis, whose writings abound with ideas which have no scriptural basis and whose defense of truth owes far more to Western philosophy and human reason than it does to the Word of God. Lewis had a marked propensity to mythologize the Bible and to treat it as inspired human artefact rather than the inerrant Word of God.



The truth about C S Lewis is very different from the cuddly figure portrayed by *Christianity Today*. Since we have already dealt with this subject elsewhere (*see our critique on www.zephaniah.eu*) we must confine our review to some basic facts about the man.

He did not believe in the literal truth of the Bible but saw it largely as a collection of allegorical and apocryphal stories that were intended to convey instructive spiritual principles. He did not accept the doctrine of substitutionary atonement and thus rejected the very foundation of Christianity. He considered hell an absurd idea and viewed Christ primarily as an ontological leap in the evolution of mankind.

In his opinion Psychoanalysis and Evolution were not incompatible in the least with Christianity. He believed that the religious traditions of all cultures were imbued with some portion of 'Biblical' truth but that the Jewish culture just happened to be the one that God selected for His redemptive purpose. Lewis believed He could just as easily have chosen the Greek or Egyptian cultures instead. Incredibly he also believed that to worship Apollo in his true mythical stature was to worship Christ.

Lewis spent long hours over a period of many years in conversation with his Inklings friends, notably the Roman Catholic purveyor of pagan mythology, J R Tolkien, and two high-level practitioners of witchcraft and the occult, Charles Williams and Owen Barfield. Williams had been a member of the Luciferian society, the Golden Dawn, while Barfield was an internationally recognized authority on the Luciferian philosophy of Rudolph Steiner. In short, some of his closest associates were dedicated servants of Satan.

As noted in our earlier paper, two former practitioners of witchcraft – John Todd and David Meyer – confirmed that both C S Lewis and J R Tolkien were longtime practitioners of 'the old religion' (witchcraft) and are revered by modern witches for their role in spreading occult ideas in western society. As David Meyer said:

As a former witch, astrologer, and occultist who has been saved by the grace of God, I know that the works of C.S. Lewis are required reading by neophyte witches, especially in the United States and England. This includes *The Chronicles of Narnia*, because [they] teach neophyte[s], or new witches, the basic mindset of the craft...

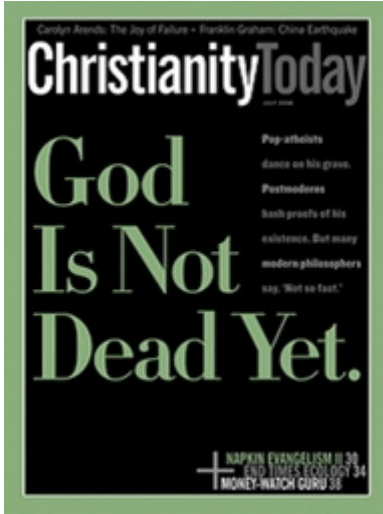

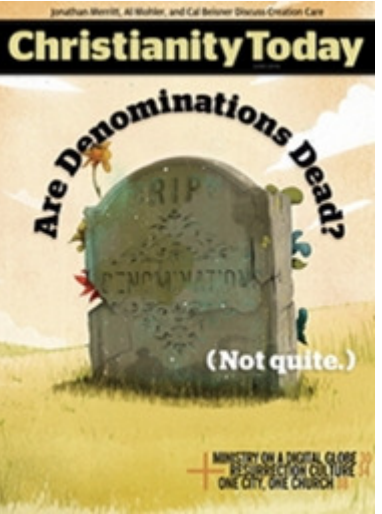
Lewis was a true student of Screwtape, a covert purveyor of a paganised form of Christianity. His writings are cunning and deceitful perversions of Biblical truth and should never be used under any circumstances for purposes of Christian edification.

Romanism, Ecumenism and Mysticism

The subliminal cynicism that runs through *Christianity Today* is well illustrated by the covers shown overleaf. Taken together they suggest that the world is set on a course that will lead in due course to the extinction of true Christianity.

The possibility that separate Christian denominations may some day cease to exist is actually the goal of Ecumenism or *interfaith spirituality* and its principal sponsor, the Roman Catholic Church. Rome wants to coalesce all branches of Christianity – both true and false – into one homogeneous blob (just as the Book of Revelation has foretold). The apostate global entity that emerges would, of course, be under Papal control.

In advancing this cause, its various champions, which include *Christianity Today*, must succeed in convincing the public that a collection of separate denominations actually impedes the work of Christ in the world today. So when *CT* asks, "Are Denominations Dead?" and coyly supplies the parenthetical answer "(Not quite)", it is signaling its confident expectation that before very long they will be.

 <p>July 2008</p>	 <p>December 2009</p>	 <p>June 2010</p>
--	---	--

The Ecumenical agenda of *Christianity Today* is clearly evident from its glowing endorsement of the Roman Catholic mystics, contemplative spirituality, and the monastic tradition.

To understand the full significance of this, we need first to consider what mysticism and contemplative spirituality really are and forget for a moment their rosy portrayal by Roman theologians.

To begin with, they are not found anywhere in the Bible. When the Word of God asks that we ‘meditate’ on a particular truth, we are being asked to consider its spiritual depth and the part it plays in our relationship with God. In short, the LORD is asking us to *use* our minds, not set them aside. There is not a single occasion anywhere in the Bible where a believer is required to sit down and empty his mind. In all cases, the supplicant is expected to be completely in control of his faculties and to address God through prayer in a conscious, discursive manner.

The mystics have a completely different way of relating to their god. For example, the Islamic mystics, known as the Sufis, seek a state known as *fana* or annihilation. This involves the merging of their mind and personality with a supernatural power vastly greater than themselves. The same ‘emptying’ process is common to all mystical traditions, whether Buddhist, Hindu, Zen or Roman Catholic. The Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, became so absorbed in the mystical path that he described himself as a Christian Buddhist. And he was right, because the mystical path is essentially the same across all religious traditions. The inner light that the Roman Catholic mystic sees in contemplation is the same light that the Buddhist sees.

However, the ‘light’ in question is not the Light of Christ, but the false light of Lucifer. This is true even of those mystics who profess to be ‘Christian’. There have been no Protestant mystics of note because, by and large, Bible-believing Christians have (until now) remained faithful to the precepts and statutes set out in Scripture.

We should remember that Paul described Lucifer as an Angel of Light – “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14). The Adversary can project that light into anyone who is foolish enough seek a ‘mystical’ experience and open themselves to a supernatural light. Even if the experience is overwhelming to one’s human senses, the ‘light’ itself is spiritual darkness.

Christ warned of this false light when he said, “If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Matthew 6:23)

This may shock many people, but it must be given serious consideration since it has very grave implications for the church. Professing Christians who believe it is possible to use a technique or a process to ‘experience’ God are deluding themselves. The Bible never teaches anything like this. Never! We are asked to wait upon God, to live in faith and the joyful expectation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Only *then* – when Christ returns – will we experience God:

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.” – 2 Thessalonians 3:5

The ‘experience’ of God that comes through an altered state of consciousness, a mystical trance or contemplative reverie – whatever you wish to call it – is NOT God, but a highly seductive counterfeit.

And not only is this counterfeit highly seductive, it is also highly addictive. There is no doubt that many of the mystics experience ‘ecstasy’ and similar psychological states through contemplative prayer, but they have nothing whatever to do with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Roman Catholic church has a long tradition of contemplative mysticism, stretching all the way back to the so-called Desert Fathers in the 3rd century AD. These men were not born-again Christians but hermits and ascetics who were steeped in Gnosticism and who chose to live like Hindu yogis or Tibetan monks, craving an ‘experience’ of God.

Few if any of the Catholic mystics had any respect for the Word of God. For example one can read through the collected works of John of the Cross, the Spanish mystic of the 16th century, and find scarcely any evidence that his inner life was directed by Scripture. His supposedly profound writings were little more than the rambling foolishness of a deluded man whose whole philosophy was shaped by his ‘experiences’.

Perhaps the greatest influence on the modern contemplative movement is the Catholic monk, Thomas Merton, but even his writings show little respect for the Word of God. Early in his career he had a mystical experience of the 'Virgin Mary', who is none other than Lucifer in his female persona. This seems to have marked him deeply and caused him to virtually abandon the Bible and seek 'truth' in the writings of other mystics. On the rare occasions when he did cite Scripture, it was generally to bolster a doctrine that he had propounded himself or had drawn from another source.

In a sense all mystics are addicts. They had a powerful infusion of supernatural light when they were young and became addicted to 'experiences'. However, the light they saw was the false light of Lucifer and had nothing to do with Christ. Many of them were Mary worshippers and steeped in idolatry of the worst kind. In their apostate and deluded condition, they failed to see that their entrancing encounters with the Queen of Heaven were nothing more than Satanic deceptions. The earthly mother of Jesus does not appear anywhere, at any time, to any one, for any reason, and the belief that she does is blatant necromancy.

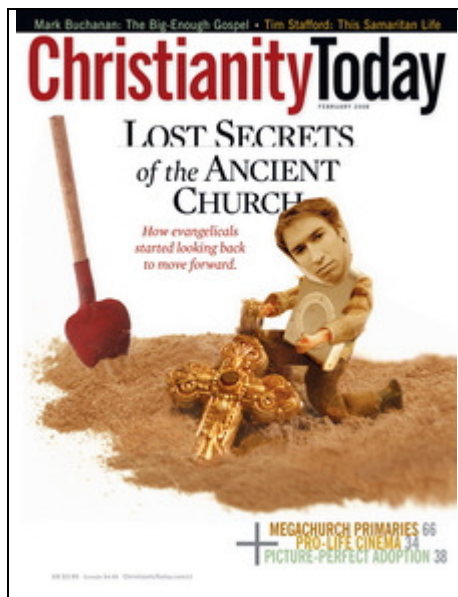
The Emerging Church

So why does *Christianity Today* continue to promote contemplative spirituality and the western mystical tradition? The answer is Ecumenism. It is all part of a well regulated campaign to merge all branches of Christianity into a single institutional entity controlled by Rome. The so-called Emerging Church is a major step in this direction, where millions of professing Evangelicals are being tricked into accepting ancient Catholic practices under the guise of 'authentic' Christianity. It is alleged that the Reformation went too far and rejected many elements of 'authentic' Christianity that were actually of benefit to believers.

This is why *Christianity Today* continues to publish strategically designed covers with subversive headlines like 'Lost Secrets of the Ancient Church', 'The New Monasticism', 'Seeking the Heart of Celtic Christianity', and 'Learning the Ancient Rhythms of Prayer' (see next page).

What is the 'ancient church' and what secrets have been lost? The Bible has never been lost, so the 'lost secrets' can't be Biblical. This would suggest that the 'ancient church' in question is actually the Roman Catholic church. And what is the 'new monasticism'? Since true Christianity has never had any form of monasticism, the 'new monasticism' must be traditional Roman Catholic monasticism in another form. Furthermore, the 'Celtic Christianity' to which the cover refers is clearly that of the Roman Catholic Church, while the 'ancient rhythms of prayer' are based – as the cover states – on what is called 'the daily office', another Roman Catholic practice.

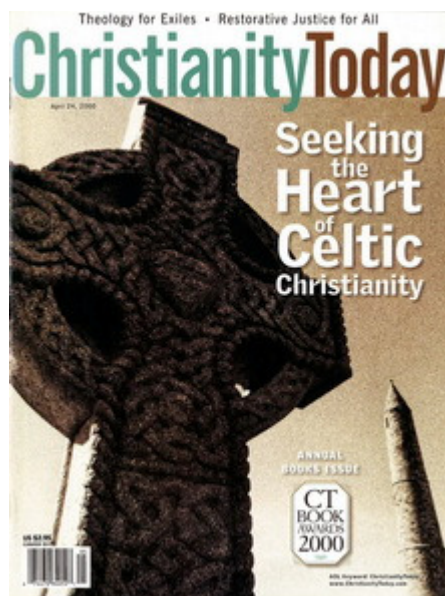
What on earth is wrong with the minds and hearts of the supposedly Evangelical readers of *Christianity Today*? They must be entirely lacking in spiritual discernment and seriously deficient in a sound Scriptural knowledge of their Christian faith. Else why would they allow themselves to be subjected year after year to this shameless Catholic propaganda?



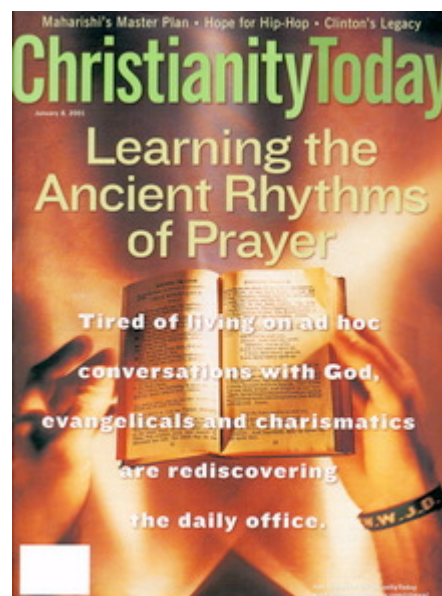
February 2008



September 2005



April 2000



January 2001

Hokum, Hype, and Heresy

In pursuing its hidden agenda, *Christianity Today* devotes a lot of space to raising the profile of key players in the Ecumenical and Emerging Church movements. In addition to providing a platform for their misleading and frequently apostate views about a 'new' Christianity, *CT* also urges its readers to buy their books, listen to their tapes, watch their videos, and attend their seminars. The process is reinforced by having the various 'experts' endorse one another again and again, so the reader is continually exposed to the same nicey-nice, we-are-all-one Ecumenical philosophy. For readers of *CT* all roads lead to Rome.

The covers reproduced on the next page illustrate some of the many *dramatis personae* that *CT* and its backers have been using to promote the Ecumenical and Emerging Church movements. We'll look briefly at each in turn:

A: This cover is rich in Vatican iconography, with a golden crucifix, a display of devotional candles, a trendy priest-like figure, and a lush backdrop of cardinal red. The associated feature article gave a strong endorsement to men like **Rob Bell** and **Brian McLaren**, who reject traditional Evangelical Christianity in favour of an open-ended, question-everything mentality, where Scripture is frequently misapplied or ignored, where truth is relative, and where cultural factors play a prominent role in determining what ought to matter in the 'new' emerging church.

B: This issue eulogised **Beth Moore**, who strongly endorses contemplative spirituality and who even appeared on a Fox Home Entertainment DVD called *Be Still*. This outrageously *New Age* production was presented by several of the best known exponents of mystical and avant garde Christianity, including the impassioned champion of the Roman Catholic contemplative tradition, **Richard Foster**.

C: *Christianity Today* is fully in favour of the self-esteem, be-positive philosophy of the Emerging Church. One of the chief architects of this unbiblical teaching is **James Dobson**, who routinely misapplies the Word of God when dispensing his psychological version of truth. In doing so he directly contradicts the scriptural teaching that man in his natural state is a fallen, sinful creature enslaved by self-esteem.

D: **Rick Warren** and his Purpose-Driven Church is really a branch of the Emerging Church movement. Chock-full of New Age ideas, it ignores the gospel of repentance and concentrates instead on a social, world-changing gospel, personal development, and a needs-based, seeker-friendly 'model' of evangelism. Warren is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a select group of individuals who control and direct the political process in the US from behind the scenes.

E: **Jack Hayford** is a big name in the Charismatic movement, where experience takes priority over Scripture and where prayer and worship are motivated mainly by a desire for signs and wonders. He claims that a supernatural 'voice' told him not to judge the Roman Catholic Church. He is extremely ecumenical in his ministry and associates indiscriminately with Catholic speakers at public events.

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">November 2004</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">B</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">August 2010</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">C</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">March 1999</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">D</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">November 2002</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">July 2005</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">April 2004</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">G</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">January 2003</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">June 2007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">July 2001</p>

F: Bill Gaither was warmly endorsed by *CT* in its issue of April 2004. Gaither is a major player in the plan to use an ecumenical brand of ‘Christian’ music to draw Evangelicals and Catholics closer together. The doctrinal content of the lyrics is so weak and ill-defined that virtually any professing Christian – including Catholics and Mormons – could happily sing along. In fact many contemporary ‘Christian’ hymns are so unscriptural in content, and so worldly in rhythm and style, that even atheists and humanists could readily join in.

G: Tony Campolo is a strong advocate of the Emerging Church and all that it stands for. A skilled entertainer, he teaches a vague, ecumenical theology that verges on universalism (the doctrine that non-Christians will also be saved). He endorses contemplative spirituality and the belief that it brings an “encounter with God” which takes one beyond scripture. His Kingdom Now theology aims at social transformation and rejects the prophetic testimony of scripture. In his book, *The God of Intimacy and Action* (co-written with Jesuit-trained Mary Darling) he extolls what he calls *supersaints*, “people who have been caught up into some mystical unity with God”, and cites among the examples one should emulate such Catholic mystics as Teresa of Avila, Francis of Assisi, and Catherine of Siena, as well as the founder of the Jesuit Order, Ignatius of Loyola, who set up a pan-European network of spies and informants to persecute, hunt down, and murder vast numbers of Bible-believing Christians.

H: Donald Miller is the author of the ‘Christian’ best-seller, *Blue Like Jazz*. Like Campolo, Miller is highly critical of ‘fundamentalism’, a disciplined adherence to the doctrinal content of the Bible. In his view, doctrine should fit the individual in much the same way that jazz allows a musician to improvise. He dismisses the Garden of Eden and the worldwide Flood as “theological absurdities” and denigrates those who hold to the inerrancy of the Bible. His portrait of Jesus is utterly unscriptural, where our Lord is portrayed as a cool dude who likes to hang out with the guys. As with many other Emerging Church gurus, Miller is strongly in favor of contemplative mysticism – “you cannot be a Christian without being a mystic” – and Kingdom Now or Dominionist theology, which promotes social activism and rejects Bible prophecy about the End Times. The popularity of his beatnik ramblings and feel-good gospel is a clear sign that many professing Christians today are actually baby pagans, earth-centered sign-seekers who simply want everyone to be happy. They would rather make up their own theology than obey the Word of God.

I: Chuck Colson was responsible for co-drafting, along with Roman Catholic priest Richard Newhaus, the outrageously Ecumenical document, *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* (1994). If there was a watershed moment in the destruction of Biblical Christianity in America, it was March 29, 1994, when the parties concerned issued their first joint statement. Plans to produce the document were formulated at a meeting of Christian leaders in 1985, organized by Colson. It is significant that the meeting was addressed by Carl Henry, editor and co-founder of *Christianity Today*.

The real agenda behind *Christianity Today*

By now we have supplied more than enough evidence to show that *Christianity Today* has an unstated agenda, namely to shift the focus of traditional Evangelical Christianity and bring it into line with the ecumenical wing of the Roman Catholic Church.

Christianity Today was co-founded in 1956 by Billy Graham and Carl Henry. Ever since then it has been steadily infiltrating traditional, Bible-based Christian churches across America and drawing them closer to Rome. There is ample evidence on the Internet that Billy Graham has for decades been promoting closer ties with Rome. He has met with the Pope on several occasions, praised him in glowing terms as a true man of God, and directed all former Roman Catholics at his public assemblies to return to the Roman church. Graham told Larry King that he and the Pope "agree on almost everything." He has never warned Evangelicals of the numerous heresies that Rome teaches, her utterly apostate condition, her stated goal of destroying Protestantism no matter how long it takes, or her terrible slaughter of the saints.

Demons don't die. The same demonic spirit that controlled the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century still controls it today. True believers are greatly deceived if they think otherwise.

Behind the cosy facade, *Christianity Today* is a propaganda tool for the Roman Catholic Church, another weapon in the long series of weapons that the Papacy has used to uproot and destroy the fruits of the Reformation.

Before we close, we would like to present one final piece of evidence. While the magazine has carried countless articles, reports and reviews over the past few decades that conflict – sometimes blatantly but more often in a subtle manner – with the true Gospel and the plain testimony of Scripture, it published in 2010 an article of such a rebellious, offensive and blasphemous nature that it should have served as a wake-up call for even the most obdurate of its readers. What is more it was written, not by an outsider, but by one its most senior editorial staff.

While *CT* has since tried to pass it off as a harmless satire or a tongue-in-cheek opinion piece, the article is informed throughout by such an arrogant tone and such an insolent attitude that there is no mistaking its real purpose. The usually subtle attack on traditional Biblical Christianity, at which *CT* excels, is replaced for a moment by a far-from-subtle broadside, the kind of cynical diatribe that could just as easily have been penned by a humanist.

Here are some excerpts (The complete article is reproduced in the attached Appendix):

“Read the prophets. It's just one harangue after another, all in loud decibels. And when the shouting is over, then comes the pouting...This God is like the volatile Italian woman...We may think this a crude depiction, except that Jesus – God with us – seems to suffer the same emotional imbalance...I'd rather have a God who takes sin in stride. Why can't he relax and recognize that to err is human. I mean, you don't find us flawed humans freaking out about one another's sins. You don't see us wrathful, indignant, and pouting. Why can't God almighty just chill out and realize we're just human? ...He made the creation of these beings [humans] not a matter of course or compromise, but a matter of life or death. Everything was on the line with this roll of the dice...God was going to make human glory a winner-take-all proposition, even if it killed him. So when things start going south, we find him throwing dishes and slamming doors...God rants at us as an Olympian curses himself for losing concentration during a crucial part of the race...When God sees the space shuttle hurtling toward its destruction, he weeps, he rants, he pulls his hair out. And something inside him dies...So what we have, for better or worse, is a melodramatic God. He yells and throws dishes, and walks off in a huff, slamming the door behind him...He's anything but calm and collected, reassuring and reasonable. He's as mercurial as gods go...He's like the crazy uncle in the family. At some point, you have to let your friends know about him, but you'd just as soon avoid having to introduce him. I much prefer reasonable religion with reasonable expectations, and a God who doesn't get bent out of shape every time his people trip up...He's such a drama queen.”

Needless to say, this article is no longer available on the *CT* website. It reveals far too much.

Conclusion

While professing to be Evangelical, *Christianity Today* relentlessly pursues a course which undermines confidence in the integrity of traditional Christian doctrine, promotes ecumenism and mysticism, blurs the distinction between truth and heresy (especially heresies favored by Rome), rejects Biblical literacy and End Time prophecy, gives unwarranted credibility to every sceptical fad and fashion, portrays fundamentalists as cranks, and elevates social and cultural considerations to determinants of Biblical truth. It is utterly opposed to the scriptural principle of separation and promotes instead a false unity among all professing Christians, even to the point where Roman Catholics are classified as Christian. By highlighting at every opportunity the supposed merits of the Emerging Church, and by failing repeatedly to point out its many heresies and pagan practices, it seeks deliberately to foster a new version of ‘Christianity’. While this new version may garner wide appeal, it will have no power to save anyone. In short, it will be a Satanic counterfeit.

And yet tens of thousands of professing Christians still subscribe to this apostate mouthpiece for the Roman Catholic Church. How many blasphemous images and heretical articles must it produce before these foolish sheep catch the scent of the wolf?

Jeremy James
Ireland
25 October 2012

**For more information about the planned
destruction of Christianity
visit www.zephaniah.eu**

Material reproduced herein from *Christianity Today* is the property of the copyright holder and is cited for purposes of fair comment only.

© Jeremy James 2012

- Article published in *Christianity Today*, July 2010 -

Divine Drama Queen

But I'd secretly rather have a God who is a non-anxious presence.

By Mark Galli

I like a tranquil, even-keeled, self-controlled God. A God who doesn't fly off the handle at the least provocation. A God who lives one step above the fray. A God who has that British stiff upper lip even when disaster is looming.

When I read my Bible, though, I keep running into a different God, and I'm not pleased. This God says he "hates" sin. Well, he usually *yells* it. Read the prophets. It's just one harangue after another, all in loud decibels. And when the shouting is over, then comes the pouting.

Take his conversation with Hosea. The Lord is disgusted with Israel, and he asks Hosea to enact a parable. He orders Hosea to take a prostitute for a wife; she becomes a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. This is no down-on-her-luck-but-with-a-heart-of-gold prostitute like those so often portrayed in movies. This is some sleazy woman who, even when given a chance at a decent life, keeps "whoring."

God then tells Hosea to have children with this woman. When the children are born, he tells Hosea to call the first Jezreel, explaining, "I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." The second, God calls No Mercy, because "I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all." The third he calls Not My People, "for you are not my people, and I am not your God" (Hosea 1:1-9).

This God is like the volatile Italian woman who, upon discovering her husband's unfaithfulness, yells and throws dishes, refuses to sleep in the same bed, and doesn't speak to him for 40 days and 40 nights.

We may think this a crude depiction, except that Jesus – God with us – seems to suffer the same emotional imbalance. He rants about Pharisees and Scribes – or "snakes" and "hypocrites," as he calls them. So upset is he over sacrilege in the Temple, he overturns tables and drives people out with a whip. And then we find him lamenting, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate!" (Matt. 23:37-38).

This God knows nothing about being a non-anxious presence. This is a very anxious God, indeed.

I'd rather have a God who takes sin in stride. Why can't he relax and recognize that to err is human. I mean, you don't find us flawed humans freaking out about one another's sins. You don't see us wrathful, indignant, and pouting. Why can't God almighty just chill out and realize we're just human?

* * *

It's that little phrase, "we're just human," that may be the rub with God.

Sin seems to be a big deal to God because apparently we're a big deal to him. That little phrase, "we're just human," signals that we may not be as big a deal to ourselves. We're more like the woman who thought she was destined to write the great American novel, but after getting a couple of publisher rejections decided to write Harlequin romances instead. Or the runner who had dreams of winning gold in the Olympics, but after placing 15th in the Boston Marathon, decided that weekend golf would have to do for exercise. We live in the land of "just make do," in the valley of lost dreams, and in the endless desert of parched hope.

But we have a God who thinks we *can* write the great American novel and win Olympic gold. He believes that to be human is to be destined for glory. As Peter put it, he has "called us to his own glory and excellence," that we "may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:3-4).

That's right: he thinks "just humans" can become nothing less than gods. Not in the sense of beings who should be worshipped, but beings who have become, in the fullest sense, bearers of the image and likeness of their Creator.

He not only thinks this, God has given himself to make it happen. In creating the world, God had a lot of options, and he exercised a number of them. He created things that just grow and "veg" and die, beautiful but without much awareness of the larger reality. He called them plants.

He created beings that had a tad more awareness, but could never aspire to anything grand. They enjoy a simple, physical existence, and then die. He called them animals.

Then he created beings with deep awareness of themselves and their Creator, who could envision the absolute heights they could scale and the perfect love they could enjoy, and who knew they could have all this forever and ever.

It was a gamble, though. For such a creature – one with the very nature of God – could also become a devil. Such a creature – one who could know perfect love – could also learn perfect hate. Such a creature – who could envision a life blessed beyond imagination – could also despair, could begin thinking that to be human is to err, is to be flawed, is to despair of glory.

And yet God gambled. He has thrown everything into this grand enterprise. He made the creation of these beings not a matter of course or compromise, but a matter of life or death. Everything was on the line with this roll of the dice. To win meant for these creatures a bliss that only God knows. To lose meant death and eternal destruction. There was no holding back. God was going to make human glory a winner-take-all proposition, even if it killed him. So when things start going south, we find him throwing dishes and slamming doors.

As Karl Barth says in his exposition of the Heidelberg Catechism, "In entering into a covenant of grace with man, God has come so near to man that he is affected by what man does, so near that he can be hurt by man."

God rants at us as an Olympian curses himself for losing concentration during a crucial part of the race. Or as a novelist chastises herself for lazy writing. For the righteous perfectionist (versus the neurotic perfectionist), every detail matters. God wants nothing less than perfection, because he knows that perfection is the only way for us to become what he created us to become: godlike.

* * *

When the stakes are so high, of course, the consequence of failure, even in the smallest detail, spells disaster. It's like a space shuttle – one of the most sophisticated and marvelous of machines – crashing to earth because of a faulty oil ring.

When God sees the space shuttle hurtling toward its destruction, he weeps, he rants, he pulls his hair out. And something inside him dies. Our God cares about us frail, fickle, weak human beings because he knows something we often forget: we're not "just human." He'll go to any length to get us to grasp and live into our glory, even if it kills him.

This is why the Bible traffics in such dramatic language. There is nothing cautious, careful, or reasonable about the human enterprise. It's about being lost or saved. Living in darkness or in light. Knowing despair or being filled with hope. Death or life. The Bible is not interested in a religion that merely improves the human condition, or makes life manageable. It's not about success or happiness or helping us all get along. These are paltry aspirations. No, what God wants is to raise the dead and make gods out of sinners.

So what we have, for better or worse, is a melodramatic God. He yells and throws dishes, and walks off in a huff, slamming the door behind him – and then he turns around and gives his life for us. In a foreshadowing of Jesus, he says to Israel through Hosea: "How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? ... for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath" (Hosea 11:8-9). He's anything but calm and collected, reassuring and reasonable. He's as mercurial as gods go.

"The being and doing of man touch [God's] heart," continues Barth. "Understood in this way, the word of God's wrath is full of comfort and gospel, full of good news... A mere overlooking pardon would not be worthy of him, nor would it help man. It would be a lack of mercy, the indifference of a god who in truth is not God."

* * *

Still, most days, I secretly wish God were not like this. He's like the crazy uncle in the family. At some point, you have to let your friends know about him, but you'd just as soon avoid having to introduce him.

I much prefer reasonable religion with reasonable expectations, and a God who doesn't get bent out of shape every time his people trip up. But then again, I don't love as God loves. Not God. Not others. Not myself.

The road to hell is paved with reasonable religion with a non-anxious god. Most days, I'm pretty happy driving down that road. But I keep running into this Crazy Fellow along the way. At every stop light, he jumps up and down to get my attention. He pounds on my window asking me where the heck I think I'm going. He stands on the front bumper, shouting at me to turn around. When all else fails, he throws himself in front of the car.

He's such a drama queen.

Mark Galli is senior managing editor of *Christianity Today*. He is author of *Jesus Mean and Wild: The Unexpected Love of an Untamable God* (Baker).

© Christianity Today

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/julyweb-only/38-41.0.html?start=1>

Note: If you click on this link you will find a note by Mr Galli explaining why he has removed the article.